

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0417

E O 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR BQG WB EG
SUBJ: TRANSIT SEARCHES DOWN

REFS: (A) BONN 1845 DTG 311605 JAN 78; (B) BERLIN 695 DTG
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SUMMARY: BERLIN SENAT HAS CONFIRMED NUMBER OF THOROUGH SEARCHES
BY GDR OFFICIALS OF TRANSIT TRAVELLERS DOWN DRAMATICALLY OVER
PREVIOUS MONTHS. SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS KORBER CONFIRMED
OUR SUPPOSITION THAT STATE SECRETARY WISCHNEWSKI WORKED THIS OUT
DURING HIS RECENT TALKS IN EAST BERLIN. END SUMMARY.

1. IN DISCUSSION WITH VISITING DEPTOFF AND MISOFF FEB 20
SENATOR FOR FEDERAL AFFAIRS HORST KORBER CONFIRMED THAT THE
NUMBER OF THOROUGH SEARCHES BY GDR OFFICIALS OF TRANSIT TRAVELLERS
BETWEEN FRG AND BERLIN HAS DROPPED DRAMATICALLY IN FEBRUARY.
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AS OF FEB 19 ONLY 19 TRANSIT TRAVELLERS HAD BEEN SUB-
JECTED TO MORE THAN ROUTINE INSPECTION OF THEIR TRAVEL
DOCUMENTS. THIS COMPARES WITH 277 THOROUGH SEARCHES
IN JANUARY, AND 100 IN DECEMBER (REFTEL D).

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION GIVEN BY KORBER TO THE BERLIN HOUSE
OF REPRESENTATIVES' FEDERAL AND ALL BERLIN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON

FEB 20, A TOTOAL OF 158 CITIZENS OF THE FRG AND WEST BERLINERS WERE APPREHENDED IN 1977 FOR MISUSE OF THE TRANSIT ROUTES, MOST OF THEM REPORTEDLY FOR EXFILTRATION. IN 1977 THERE WERE OVER 230 REPORTED INSTANCES OF THOROUGH SEARCHES OF TRAVELLERS BY GDR OFFICIALS.

3. IN DISCUSSION WITH VISITING DEPTOFF AND MISOFF FEB 20, DORBER SAID HE (AND PRESUMABLY OTHERS AS WELL), HAD IMPRESSED UPON WISCHNEWSKI THE POLITICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE TRANSIT INTERFERENCE ISSUE IN BERLIN. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT SAY SO DIRECTLY, KORBER IMPLIED VERY BROADLY THAT WISCHNEWSKI HAD DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF SEARCHES ON THE TRANSIT ROUTES WITH THE GDR JANUARY 26. AS KORBER NOTED, IT WOULD BE MEANINGLESS FOR HONECKER TO STATE, AS HE DID ON FEBRUARY 17, THAT THE GDR DESIRED THE CONTINUATION OF NORMAL DISCUSSIONS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CARRYING OUT IN EVER INCREASING NUMBERS SEARCHES WHICH IN WESTERN EYES WERE VIOLATIONS OF THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE TRANSIT TRAFFIC AGREEMENT.

4. BERLIN PRESS FEB 21 CARRIES STATEMENT BY FRG SPOKESMAN BOELLING TO EFFECT THAT IN THE FUTURE THE FRG WILL DO ALL THAT IS NECESSARY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF GERMAN LAW TO PREVENT COMMERCIAL EXFILTRATORS FROM MISUSING FRG-WEST BERLIN TRANSIT ROUTES. IN LIGHT OF WHAT KORBER
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SAID YESTERDAY, BOELING'S STATEMENT WOULD APPEAR TO COMPLETE PICTURE WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENT WORKED OUT BY WISCHNEWSKI IN GDR.GEORGE

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